

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for providing transcodability to media data in a network, comprising:
 - separating an amount of data into a segment; and
 - combining said segment and a transcoder readable payload header into a data packet payload, wherein said segment comprises data coded in a frame.
2. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said frame is coded using a method comprising I, P and B-frames.
3. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said frame is coded using an MPEG coding scheme.
4. The method described in Claim 1 further comprising encrypting said segment.
5. The method described in Claim 1 further comprising encrypting said transcoder readable payload header.
6. The method described in Claim 5 wherein said transcoder readable payload header is enabled to be decrypted independently of other portions of said data packet.

7. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said segment comprises a portion of a coded frame.
8. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said segment comprises a complete coded frame.
9. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said segment comprises a plurality of coded frames.
10. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said data packet payload is combined in a data packet with a packet header independent of said transcoder readable payload header.
11. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said transcoder readable payload header comprises information related to said segment.
12. The method described in Claim 11 wherein said information comprises truncation points.
13. The method described in Claim 11 wherein said information comprises frame dependency information associated with a coded frame in said data packet.
14. The method described in Claim 13 wherein said frame dependency information comprises the number of coded frames in said streamable data dependent on said coded frame.

15. The method described in Claim 11 wherein said information comprises frame priority information associated with a coded frame in said data packet.

16. The method described in Claim 11 wherein said information comprises frame priority information associated with a plurality of coded frames in said data packet.

17. The method described in Claim 1 further comprising forwarding said data packet.

18. The method described in Claim 1 wherein said media data is retrieved from storage.

19. The method described in Claim 1 further comprising storing said data packet in a storage medium.

20. A method for transcoding media in a network, comprising:
 accessing a data packet of said media comprising a
 payload and a transcoder readable payload header;
 reading said transcoder readable payload header in
 said data packet; and
 transcoding said data packet using information in said
 transcoder readable payload header.

21. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 further comprising buffering said data packet.

22. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said media is communicated in a plurality of channels.

23. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 further comprising forwarding said data packet.

24. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 23 wherein said forwarding is accomplished in a plurality of channels.

25. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 further comprising decrypting said transcoder readable payload header.

26. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said payload comprises a portion of a coded frame.

27. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said payload comprises a complete coded frame.

28. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said payload comprises a plurality of coded frames.

29. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said transcoder readable payload header enables transcoding of said data packet while said payload remains encrypted.

30. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said transcoding comprises truncating said payload.

31. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 30 wherein said truncating comprises deleting a coded frame from said payload.

32. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said transcoding comprises deleting said packet.

33. The method for transcoding media described in Claim 20 wherein said data is stored in a storage medium.

34. A computer readable medium having a data packet stored therein for causing a functional change in the operation of a device, said data packet comprising:

- a payload;

- a transcoder readable payload header; and

- a packet header, wherein said payload comprises a coded frame and wherein said transcoder readable payload header comprises information related to said coded frame.

35. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said payload comprises a plurality of said coded frames.

36. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said coded frame is coded using a method comprising I, P and B-frames.

37. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said frame is coded using an MPEG coding scheme.

38. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said transcoder readable payload header enables transcoding said data packet.

39. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said payload and said transcoder-readable payload header are enabled to be encrypted independently of said packet header.

40. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said transcoder-readable payload header is enabled to be decrypted independently of said payload.

41. The computer readable medium described in Claim 34, wherein said transcoder readable header is enabled to be read independently of said payload.

42. The computer readable medium described in Claim 41, wherein said transcoder readable payload header is enabled to be written independently of said coded frames.

43. The computer readable medium described in Claim 42, wherein each of said coded frames is enabled to be deleted from said data packet independently of other coded frames in said packet.

44. The computer readable medium described in Claim 42, wherein said data packet is stored in a storage medium.

45. A transcoder for transcoding a frame coded data packet, comprising:

a packet header reading device; and

a packet truncating device, said packet truncating device being enabled to truncate a portion of said packet by reference to a packet header.